

REMARKS

This is in response to an Office Action (Final Rejection) dated 02/05/2004 in the above-referenced matter. A response is due 05/05/2004, and can be extended.

Claims 23-48, 52-54, 58, 59 are pending.

Claims 29-46, 52, 53 and 58 are allowed.

Claims 23-28, 47, 48, 54 are rejected.

Claim 59 is objected to.

Grounds of Rejection

¶3 Claims 23, 24, 26-28, 47 are rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Gilson, in view of Hansen (USP 5,742,840).

¶4 Claim 25 is rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Gilson and Hansen in view of Chang (USP 5,687,325).

¶7 Claims 48, 54 are rejected under 35 USC 102 (e) as being unpatentable over Gilson.

¶8 Claim 59 is objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

¶9 Claims 29-46, 52, 53 and 58 are allowed.

Traversing the Rejections

Regarding Claim 59 (objected to)

Claim 59 (objected to) is amended to include the limitations of claim 23 (rejected), and claim 23 is canceled. Claims 24-28, 47 depending from claim 23 are amended to depend from claim 59. All of these claims should be allowed.

Regarding Claims 48, 54 (rejected)

As Applicant has argued in the previous Amendment, it is believed that Gilson does not disclose an IC chip including all of the recited elements.

Item 7 of the Office Action states that the expansion card 60 of Gilson is the integrated circuit chip and rejects the claims under 35 USC 102(e).

However, Gilson discloses "the expansion card 60" (col_ 7, line 63, col. 8, line 1,

and col. 8, line 61) or "the expansion board 60" (col. 8, line 13), which is plugged into one of the expansion slots of the PC 52. Plainly, an expansion card or board to be plugged into the expansion slot of the PC is not an integrated circuit chip.

As the numeral 12 in Fig. 3 indicates, the XILINX 3000 series FPGA 12, which is an IC chip comprised of the T/O pads 30, the I/O blocks, and the Logic blocks 34 as shown in Fig. 2, only includes the Host Interface 18, the Control Logic 68, and the DSP 70. All of the other components in the Audio Input Portion 69 and those in the Analog Output Portion 94 are provided outside of the FPGA, or the IC chip, 12.

Claim Count

One independent claim has been canceled (claim 23).

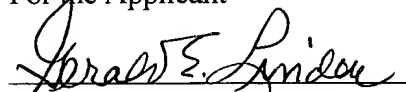
One dependent claim (claim 59) has been rewritten in independent form.

No claim fee is required.

Conclusion

The claims should be allowed.

For the Applicant


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date